

Advocating for a State Supervisor for Languages at the State Education Agency

Suggested Steps:

1. Coordinate the effort with/through the state language organization (make sure all are “on the same page”; make sure the organization is behind your efforts)
2. Do your research: get to know and understand the organization of your State Education Agency (SEA)
 - a. What are the divisions and teams within the agency?
 - b. Whom should you contact? What’s the chain of command?
 - c. How are content areas currently supported? Do other content areas have specialized supervisors?
3. Connect with your State Board of Education:
 - a. Attend a state board meeting (Who gets to speak? What are the expectations for presenting ideas and materials?)
 - b. Get on the agenda of a meeting
4. Contact your State Superintendent/Commissioner: request a meeting
5. Have your argument well-planned (and support materials ready to hand out)
 - a. What do you want and why?
 - b. Explain how a State Supervisor for Languages will benefit the learners in the state (Focus more on learners than on teachers)
 - c. Have data about what surrounding states (or similar size states) are doing; listen to how the SEA talks about comparing your state to others and do the same
 - d. Know to what extent your SEA is involved with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO): is your State Superintendent/Commissioner a supporter or CCSSO initiatives? Investigate how other states’ language supervisors support CCSSO initiatives (from international education, to 21st century skills, to Common Core)
 - e. Connect with your state’s teacher effectiveness initiatives and models in place (Share resources that a State Supervisor could use to guide this work with language educators, including the TELL framework, NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements, AAPPL for assessing performance and documenting student growth)

Resource: National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL) description of the duties and responsibilities of a state supervisor, as well as NCSSFL's mission and purpose

http://www.ncssfl.org/about/index.php?about_index